

# FIRE SEASON AND EL NIÑO UPDATES

Impacts for Monterey Park

# Fire Season

- Continue to be unpredictable
- Affected by the drought
- 2.5 million acres burned in August



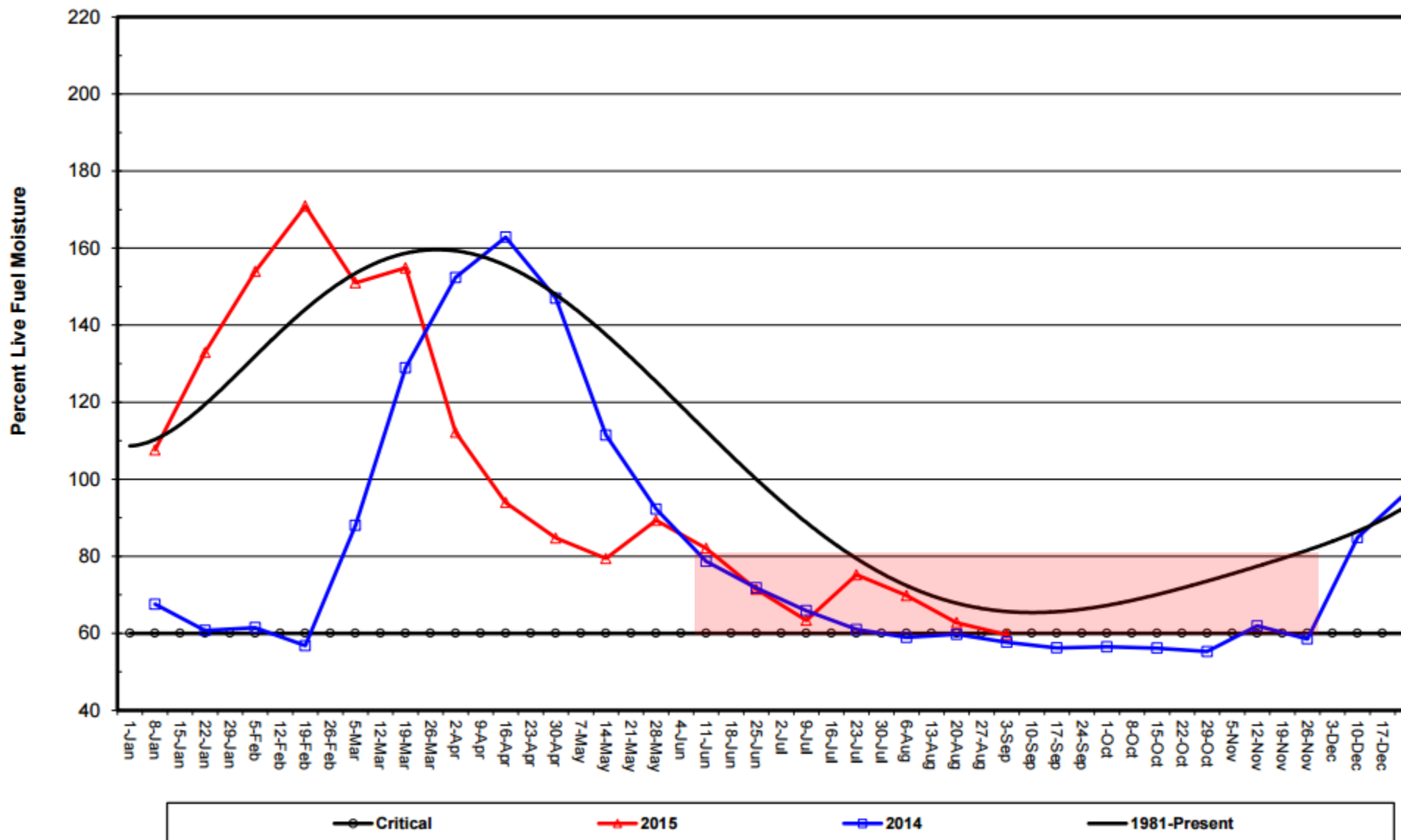


# Vegetation Management Program

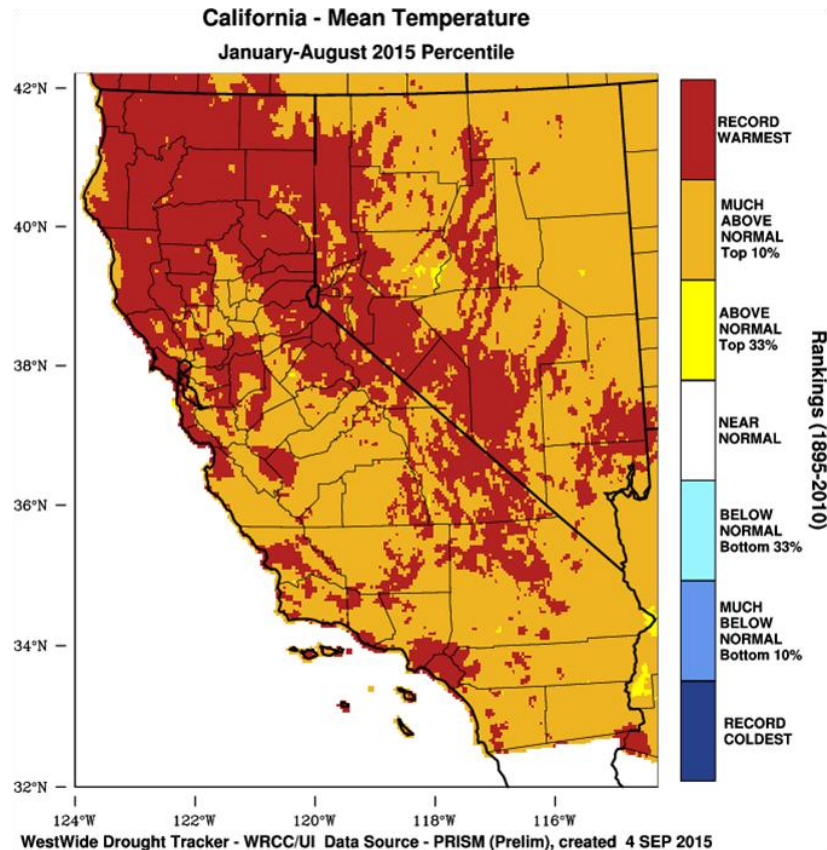
## Live Fuel Moisture 1981-2015



All Areas, All Fuels - Chamise, Ceanothus, Sages, Sagebrush



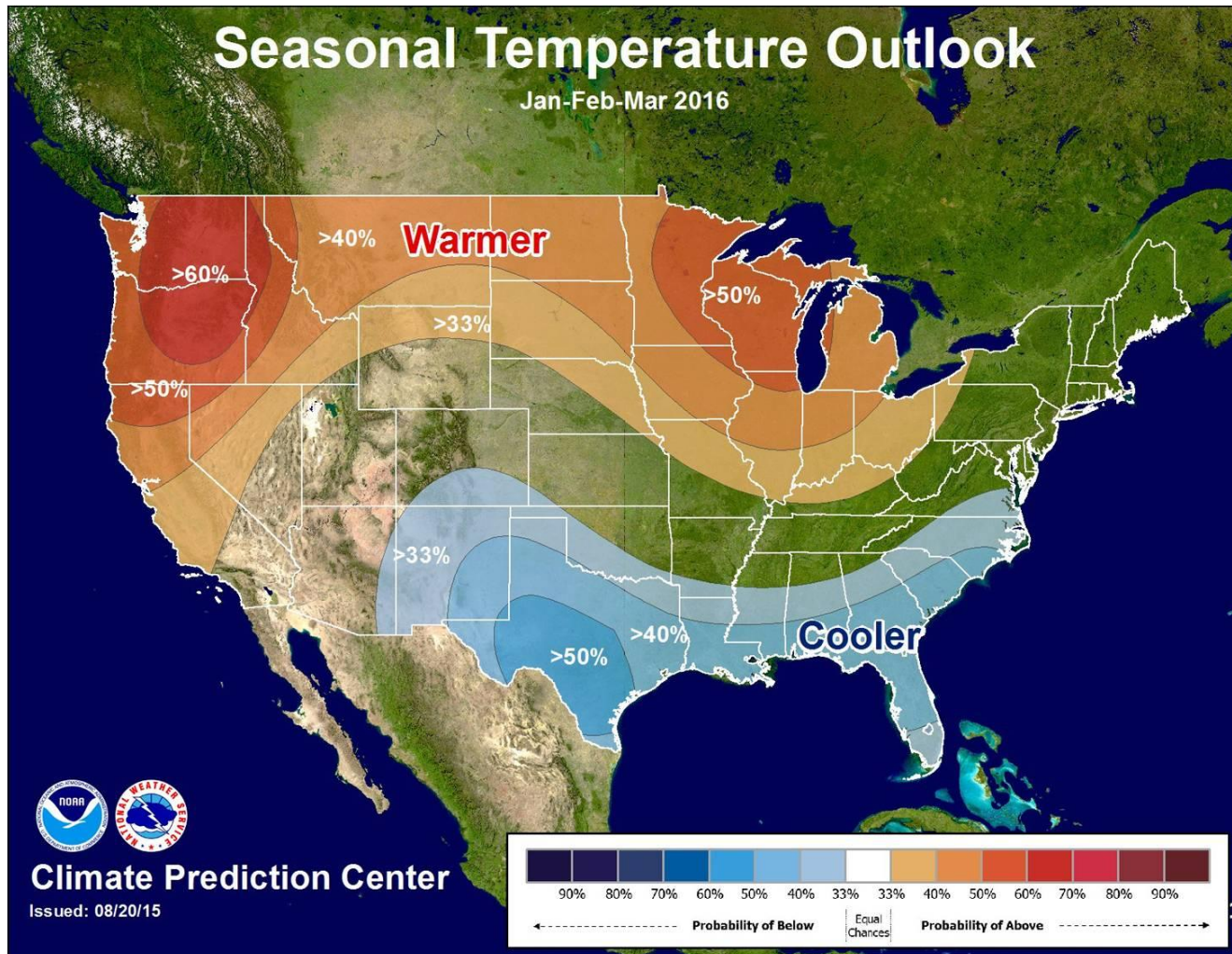
# 2015 California Temperatures



- Continued warm temps expected
- The majority of California recorded 10% above normal temps

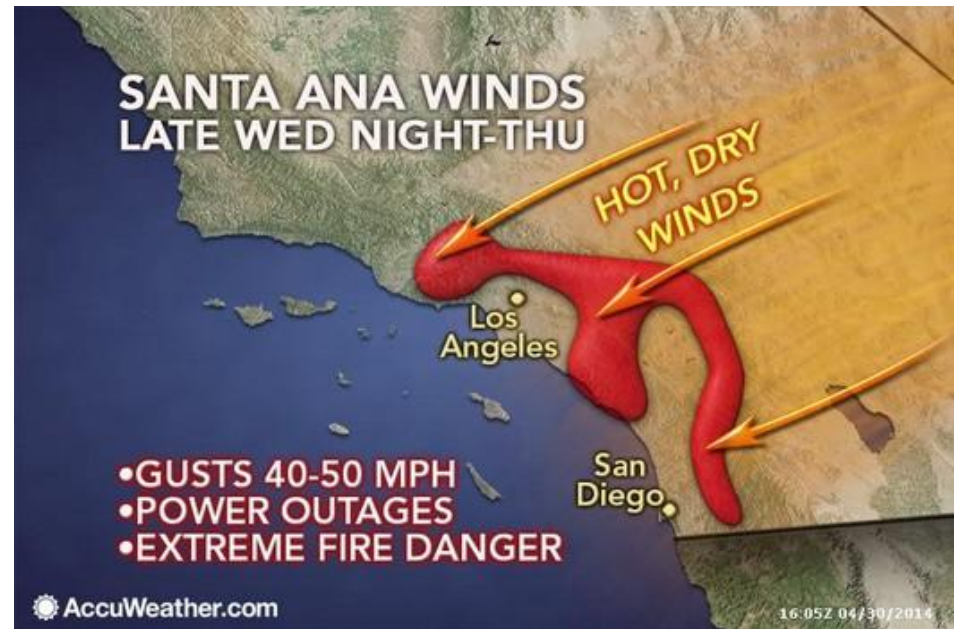


# Temperature Outlook



# Santa Ana Winds

- Strong downslope winds that blow through the mountain passes in Southern California



# Santa Ana Winds

- Example of how powerful the winds can be during the fall months



# Red Flag Conditions

- How they are determined
- Sustained wind average 15 mph or greater
- Relative humidity less than, or equal to, 25 percent
- A temperature of greater than 75 degrees F.
- When issued for Los Angeles County it may not affect Monterey park



# What Can you Do to Prepare

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- Brush Fires
  - ▣ Ember protection
  - ▣ Vegetation management
  - ▣ Maintain vigilance

# Ember Protection

- ❑ Clean out rain gutters
- ❑ Remove dead vegetation from your roofs
- ❑ Move firewood piles away from your home



# Tree Maintenance

- Ensure trees are clean of all dead vegetation
- They are trimmed at or away from your roof



# *Normal* Seasonal Timeline



- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| □ Fire Season     | June-December    |
| □ Santa Ana Winds | October-December |
| □ El Niño         | January - March  |

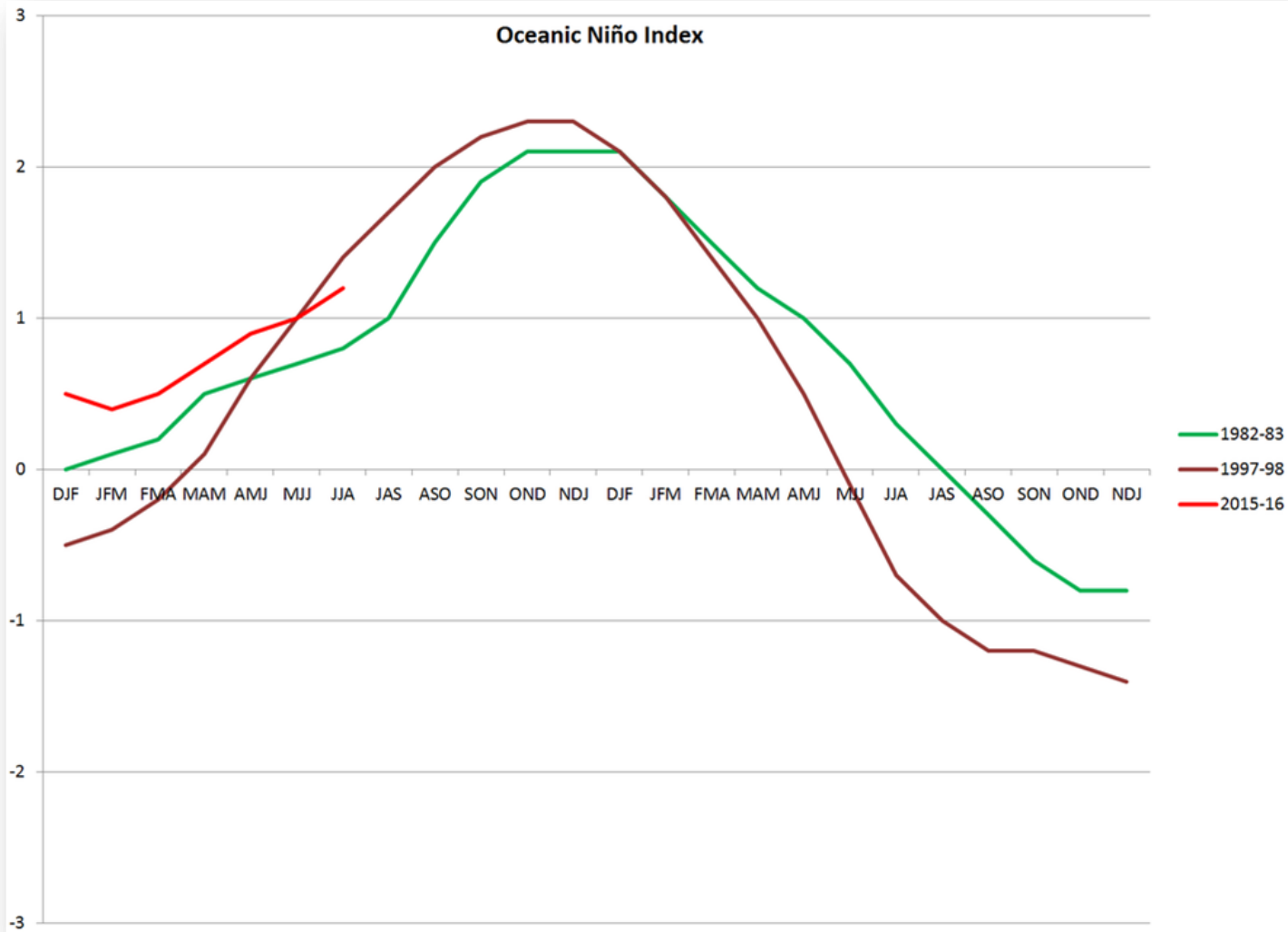
# El Niño



- The Ocean continues to reflect sustained and strengthening El Niño conditions
- Greater than 95% chance of El Niño this winter
- Forecasters generally favor a “**strong**” category

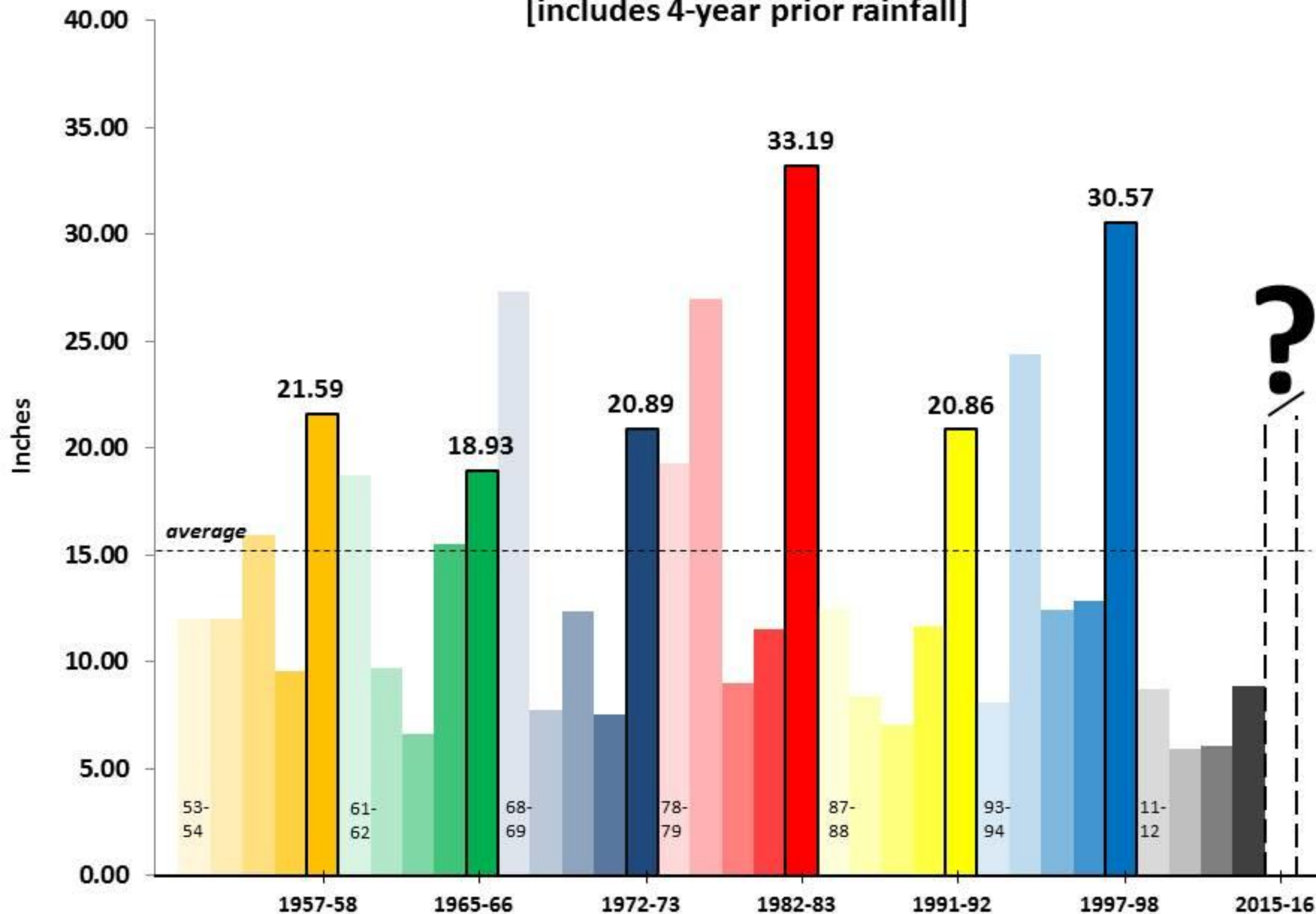


# How this El Niño Ranks

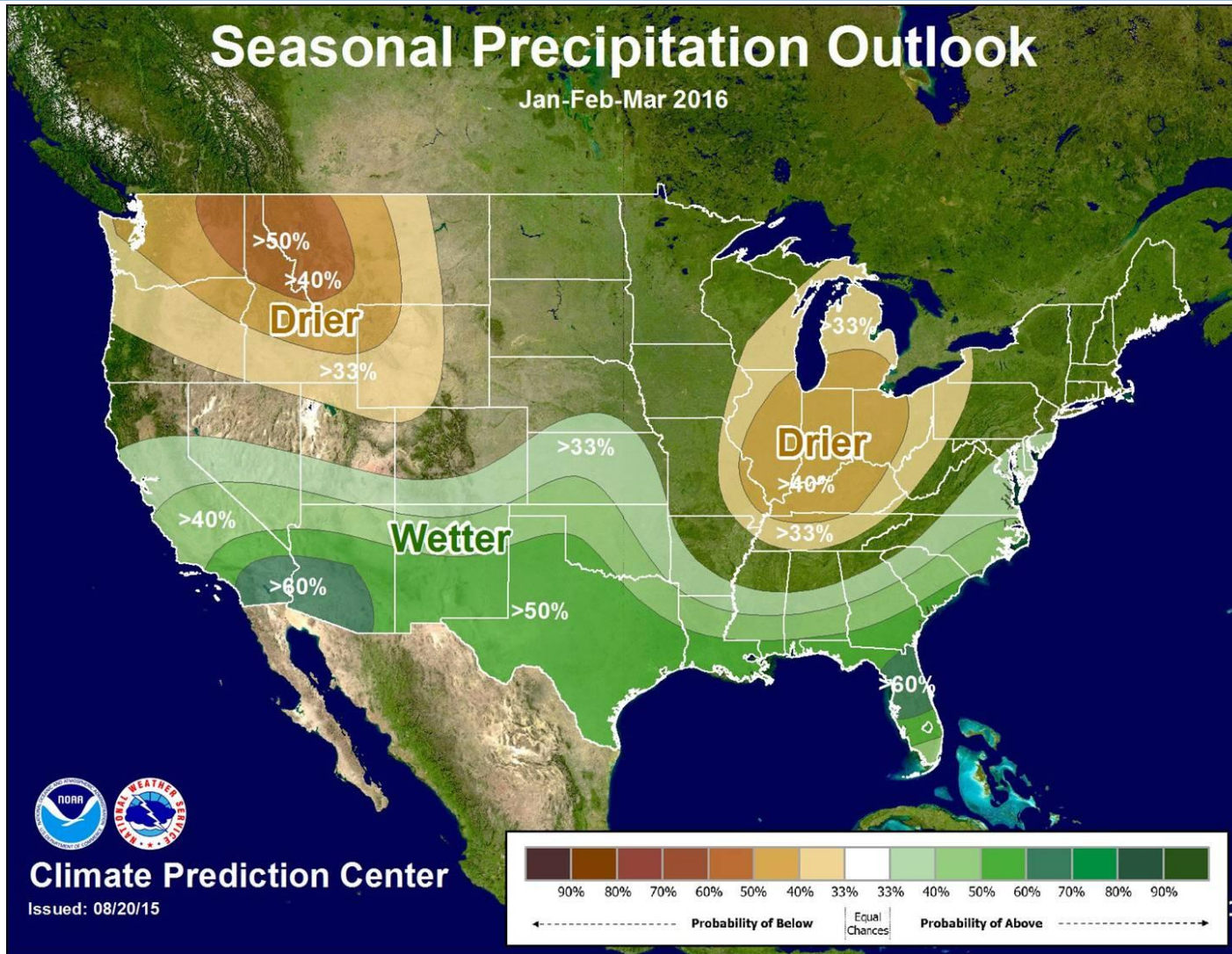


# Past Strong (6) El Nino Rainfall in Los Angeles CA

[includes 4-year prior rainfall]



# Precipitation Outlook



# Concerns for Monterey Park

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- ❑ Strong storms in rapid succession
- ❑ Hillside saturation greater than ten inches of rain
- ❑ Drought influenced hillsides and vegetation
- ❑ Experience a hillside vegetation fire followed by the predicted rain fall

# What Residents Can Do

- ❑ Clean out rain gutters, roof drains
- ❑ Clean out slope drains
- ❑ Have your hillside evaluated by a licensed professional
- ❑ If you have a leaking roof, have it repaired
- ❑ If you have problems with rain now, do not wait until storm predictions to prepare
- ❑ Sump Pumps: Ensure they are working with a battery back up



# Before the Storm



- ❑ Design channels to facilitate runoff
- ❑ Turn off Irrigation
- ❑ Cover unprotected hillside with plastic
- ❑ Prefill sandbags and have ready
- ❑ Monitor news, social media and City website
- ❑ Register for Nixle text your zip code to 888-777

# What Monterey Park is Doing

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- Increase emergency operations planning/training with city staff and volunteers (EOC)
  - ▣ Trained 40 Public Works staff
  - ▣ City staff training
  - ▣ Directors and Mid-Managers EOC training
  - ▣ CERT Team refresher training
  - ▣ New CERT class began October 10<sup>th</sup>

# What Monterey Park is Doing



- Increase public information
  - ▣ Sending out a mailer to the community
  - ▣ Sending out letters to residents with slope drains
- Updating Fire and Public Works web site information
- Article in the Cascades for November

# Sandbag Saturdays

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- **November 21, 2015**

- Garvey Ranch Park, 781 South Orange Avenue

- **December 12, 2015**

- Barnes Park, 350 South McPherrin Avenue

- Residents can receive up to 10 prefilled sandbags

- Volunteers will assist with filling

# Before Predicted Storms

- Soft opening of the EOC with operations staff
  - ▣ Public Works
  - ▣ Fire
  - ▣ Police
- Send out a Nixle Alert, residents encouraged to follow the national weather service



# Conclusions

- Prepare now
- Many of the preparations for El Nino will help protect your home against the fire season
- Consult professional assistance for slope management
- One El Niño winter will not end the drought
- Monitor the news and the National Weather Service
  - [www.weather.gov/losangeles](http://www.weather.gov/losangeles)